

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 2532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain ballot access requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 142.007, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 142.007. NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition is:

(1) for a statewide office, two [~~one~~] percent of the total vote received by all candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election; or

(2) for a district, county, or precinct office, the lesser of:

(A) 1,000 [~~500~~]; or

(B) five percent of the total vote received in the district, county, or precinct, as applicable, by all candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election, unless that number is under 25, in which case the required number of signatures is the lesser of:

(i) 25; or

(ii) 10 percent of that total vote.

SECTION 2. Section 172.021(e), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) A candidate for an office specified by Section

1 172.024(a)(8), (10), or (12), or for justice of the peace in a
 2 county with a population of more than 1.5 million, who chooses to
 3 pay the filing fee must also accompany the application with a
 4 petition for a place on the primary ballot as a candidate for
 5 judicial office that complies with the requirements prescribed for
 6 the petition authorized by Subsection (b), except that the minimum
 7 number of signatures that must appear on the petition required by
 8 this subsection is 500 [~~250~~]. If the candidate chooses to file the
 9 petition authorized by Subsection (b) in lieu of the filing fee, the
 10 minimum number of signatures required for that petition is
 11 increased by 500 [~~250~~]. Signatures on a petition filed under this
 12 subsection or Subsection (b) by a candidate covered by this
 13 subsection may not be obtained on the grounds of a county courthouse
 14 or courthouse annex.

15 SECTION 3. Section 172.024(a), Election Code, is amended to
 16 read as follows:

17 (a) The filing fee for a candidate for nomination in the
 18 general primary election is as follows:

- 19 (1) United States senator \$10,000 [~~\$5,000~~]
- 20 (2) office elected statewide, except United States
 21 senator 7,500 [~~3,750~~]
- 22 (3) United States representative 6,250 [~~3,125~~]
- 23 (4) state senator 2,500 [~~1,250~~]
- 24 (5) state representative 1,500 [~~750~~]
- 25 (6) member, State Board of Education 600 [~~300~~]
- 26 (7) chief justice or justice, court of appeals, other
 27 than a justice specified by Subdivision (8) 3,750 [~~1,875~~]

1 (8) chief justice or justice of a court of appeals that
2 serves a court of appeals district in which a county with a
3 population of more than one million is wholly or partly situated . .
4 5,000 [~~2,500~~]

5 (9) district judge or judge specified by Section
6 52.092(d) for which this schedule does not otherwise prescribe a
7 fee 3,000 [~~1,500~~]

8 (10) district or criminal district judge of a court in
9 a judicial district wholly contained in a county with a population
10 of more than 1.5 million 5,000 [~~2,500~~]

11 (11) judge, statutory county court, other than a judge
12 specified by Subdivision (12) 3,000 [~~1,500~~]

13 (12) judge of a statutory county court in a county with
14 a population of more than 1.5 million 5,000 [~~2,500~~]

15 (13) district attorney, criminal district attorney,
16 or county attorney performing the duties of a district attorney . .
17 2,500 [~~1,250~~]

18 (14) county commissioner, district clerk, county
19 clerk, sheriff, county tax assessor-collector, county treasurer,
20 or judge, constitutional county court:

21 (A) county with a population of 200,000 or more .
22 2,500 [~~1,250~~]

23 (B) county with a population of under 200,000 . .
24 1,500 [~~750~~]

25 (15) justice of the peace or constable:
26 (A) county with a population of 200,000 or more .
27 2,000 [~~1,000~~]

1 (B) county with a population of under 200,000 . .
2 750 [~~375~~]

3 (16) county surveyor 150 [~~75~~]

4 (17) office of the county government for which this
5 schedule does not otherwise prescribe a fee 1,500 [~~750~~]

6 SECTION 4. Section [172.025](#), Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 172.025. NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED. The
9 minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition
10 authorized by Section [172.021](#)(b) is:

11 (1) 10,000 [~~5,000~~], for a statewide office; or

12 (2) for a district, county, or precinct office, the
13 lesser of:

14 (A) 1,000 [~~500~~]; or

15 (B) two percent of the total vote received in the
16 district, county, or precinct, as applicable, by all the candidates
17 for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election,
18 unless that number is under 50, in which case the required number of
19 signatures is the lesser of:

20 (i) 50; or

21 (ii) 20 percent of that total vote.

22 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
23 an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An
24 election ordered before the effective date of this Act is governed
25 by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the former
26 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.